

Classroom News ~ Room 204



December 2011

Last month...

As we continued with our school adventure, we worked on developing the various aspects of classroom community and the carry over into other areas of the school day. It is imperative that the students treat each other and the various adults within the building with respect, include each individual, and are successful when working in groups or with partners. This is a format that is used daily in our work here in the classroom, which means we will be working on it continuously throughout the school year.

With the end of November came the end of WKCE (Wisconsin Knowledge Concepts Examination) testing. The students did a wonderful job during the testing period. You can expect to see results from your child’s assessment in May. At that time if you have question or concerns I would be happy to sit down and discuss the results with you.

In mathematics, we finished our 3rd unit of study, Story Problems. Students should continue to work on addition or multiplication combinations nightly (especially if they do not have assigned homework). Third grade students also have a math box of games at home, this is a great time to utilize some of those supplies and keep up on the skills we’ve developed over the past two months.

Our reading block for a majority of the month was used for WKCE testing, however we were also able to pull in aspects of Literature Circles/Book Clubs as well as some Guided Reading groups. The children were also provided with time to practice their reading skills independently each day.

In science and social studies we began to study Motion and Design and Wisconsin History. These units will carry us into the next month and trimester.

This Month…

This month we are continuing to work hard in all academic areas. We’ll be finishing up our Descriptive Writing piece and sharing those with our classmates to work on formal presentation skills. Please watch for your child’s My Family writing piece to come home soon. Once our descriptive writing pieces are finalized we’ll move into Narrative Writing. Students will once again be introduced to the writing genre and allowed to choose their own topics to work on while exercising their writing skills.

We’ve begun to work with Questioning and Evaluating text in reading. It’s been interesting hearing the children’s evaluation of text and the writer’s craft used in throughout the story. They are very good at developing an opinion, as well as modifying their thinking when presented with new information.

In math we’ve moved on to Unit 4, Measurement and 2D Geometry. The students will work through most of this short unit before the holiday break and will take the assessment shortly after we return. You can further support your child in this unit by allowing them to measure various objects and use various tools while doing so.

We’re continuing to work with Motion and Design in Science and Wisconsin History and Map Skills in Social Studies. The students are doing a great job and I look forward to another great month with them!

Upcoming Events:

* Geography Bee is beginning! Meetings will be held on Tuesday, December 13 and 20 at 2:20 here at EW Luther; this event is open to 4th and 5th grade students only
* Friday December 9 – Report cards are going home
* Wednesday December 14 – Guidance Lesson with Ms. Brit
* Wednesday December 21 – Guidance Lesson with Ms. Brit
* Thursday December 22 – Room 204 Classroom Holiday Party *\*for more information see Special Notes below*

Classroom Calendar available online at **[tinyurl.com/horsleycal](http://tinyurl.com/horsleycal)**

Celebrations!

*Yea! We survived WKCE testing!*

*The students did a wonderful job and we are ready to get back to our regular daily routines!*

We have one December Birthday!

Happy Birthday Lianna, December 27th!!

The students have successfully completed our first trimester of school! They are working hard and making wonderful progress!

I am very proud of each of them!!

Monthly Life Skills Focus:

This month’s Life Skill focuses on ...

Respects Cultural Diversity and Pluralism

This life-skill deals with showing respect for diversity and working cooperatively with people of differing backgrounds. At the third and fourth grade level this translates into showing respect to others, being able to disagree in a respectful manner, help others when they are being teased, etc.

\*\*Feel free to carry work on this life skill over into your home and reinforce working toward being a productive worker in every aspect of your child’s life.

Special Notes:

1. Food Allergies present in the classroom: Dairy, Food Dyes, and Peanuts

Please be considerate when sending in birthday treats and/or snacks to share.

1. On December 22nd, we are planning a classroom holiday party. Please watch for further information coming home soon.
2. During the month of December we will be collecting Skin Care items. Examples of items to donate consist of:

* Hand Sanitizer
* Body wash
* Deodorant
* Shaving cream
* Powders
* Lotions
* Body Puffs / Loofas
* Sunscreen

Useful Resources:

* Classroom Website: **[wiki.sdsm.k12.wi.us/groups/mrshorsleysclassroom/](http://wiki.sdsm.k12.wi.us/groups/mrshorsleysclassroom/)**
* Classroom Calendar: [**tinyurl.com/horsleycal**](http://tinyurl.com/horsleycal)
* School Website: **www.sdsm.k12.wi.us**